

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/582,252

Examiner

Kiran B. Patel

Applicant(s)

ZACHEISS ET AL.

Art Unit

3612

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 9/11/07.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 23-39.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

Examiner's Amendment and
Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
Allowance (9/12/07)

1. An Examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee. Authorization for the following Examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Attorney Paranjpe 9/11/07.

2. The Specification and claims were further amended to read as follows:

Insert the following language after the Title and before the section entitled "Background of the Invention":

Cross-Reference to Related Applications

This application is a U.S. national stage application of PCT Application No. PCT/IB2004/004054, filed December 4, 2004, which claims priority to German Application No. 10358473.0, filed December 9, 2003.

1-22. (Cancelled)

23. (New) An assembly for a motor vehicle having a bumper arrangement and a body part, said assembly comprising:

a structural component extending longitudinally between opposing lateral edges, said structural component including an upper edge;

an air inlet grille fixedly secured to said upper edge of said structural component and adapted to be secured to the bumper arrangement; and

a frame portion fixedly secured to each of said opposing lateral edges to provide lateral reinforcement to said structural component, said frame portion including a protruding bar having a through-hole extending therethrough to facilitate attachment to the body part and at least one box-shaped extension having a contact surface on a back side to abut a contact surface on the body part.

24. (New) An assembly as set forth in claim 23 wherein said frame portion includes a support surface on a back side of said at least one box-shaped extension to abut on a contact surface of the body part.

25. (New) An assembly as set forth in claim 24 wherein said frame portion includes a plurality of recesses formed along a top side for facilitating attachment to the bumper arrangement.

26. (New) An assembly as set forth in claim 25 wherein said frame portion includes a central recess.

27. (New) An assembly as set forth in claim 23 wherein said structural component includes a plurality of reinforcing elements extending laterally therealong.

28. (New) An assembly as set forth in claim 27 wherein said structural component includes a plurality of air inlets forming an air passage through said structural component.

29. (New) An assembly as set forth in claim 23 wherein said air inlet grille includes a top edge having a plurality of recesses for facilitating connection of said air inlet grille to the bumper arrangement.

30. (New) An assembly as set forth in claim 23 including an outer covering fixedly secured to said structural component to cover an outer surface of said structural component.

31. (New) An assembly as set forth in claim 30 wherein said outer covering includes a snap-in connection for securing said outer covering to said air inlet grille.

32. (New) An assembly as set forth in claim 30 wherein said outer covering includes a plurality of through-holes for receiving a screw connection to secure said outer covering to the body part.

33. (New) An assembly as set forth in claim 30 wherein said outer covering includes a plurality of expanding rivets for securing said outer covering to said structural component.

34. (New) An assembly as set forth in claim 30 wherein said outer covering includes a clip connection for securing said outer covering to said structural component.

35. (New) An assembly as set forth in claim 30 wherein each of said outer covering and said structural component includes a support lug, said support lug of said outer covering engaging said support lug of said structural component to prevent relative movement between said outer covering and said structural component.

36. (New) An assembly as set forth in claim 30 wherein each of said outer covering and said frame portion includes a support lug, said support lug of

said outer covering engaging said support lug of said frame portion to prevent relative movement between said outer covering and said frame portion.

37. (New) An assembly as set forth in claim 30 wherein said outer covering includes a collar extending along an upper edge of an end face of the frame portion to ensure secure mounting of said outer covering to said frame portion.

38. (New) An assembly as set forth in claim 23 including an impact absorber having a cavity, said impact absorber securing a portion of the bumper arrangement to the body part.

39. (New) An assembly as set forth in claim 23 including an outer covering fixedly secured to said structural component to cover an outer surface thereof, said outer covering including a through-hole aligned coaxially with said through-hole in said protruding bar to allow said outer covering and said frame portion to be jointly attached to the body part by a screw connection.

3. The following is an Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The primary reason for the allowance of the claims in this case, is the inclusion of the limitation "a structural component extending longitudinally between

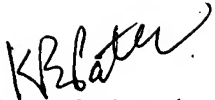
opposing lateral edges, said structural component including an upper edge; an air inlet grille fixedly secured to said upper edge of said structural component and adapted to be secured to the bumper arrangement; and a frame portion fixedly secured to each of said opposing lateral edges to provide lateral reinforcement to said structural component, said frame portion including a protruding bar having a through-hole extending therethrough to facilitate attachment to the body part and at least one box-shaped extension having a contact surface on a back side to abut a contact surface on the body part" in the independent claim, in combination with the other recited limitations in claims supported by this application, which are not found in the prior art of record.

4. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications should be directed to Primary Examiner Kiran B. Patel whose telephone number is 571-272-6665. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 8:00 to 5:00. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Application/Control Number: 10/582,252
Art Unit: 3612

Page 8


Kiran B. Patel
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3612
September 12, 2007